

Application No.: 10/800,516

Case No.: 53949US013

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 13-22 and 24 have been withdrawn. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 1-12, 23, and 25-30 in view of the following remarks.

I. Claims 1 and 2 are Novel in view of Gurusamy et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,361,423)

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Gurusamy et al. Applicant requests reconsideration of this rejection because Gurusamy et al. do not teach or suggest a conditioning disk comprising a synthetic plastic or ceramic carrier, as recited in Applicant's claims.

Gurusamy et al. report a conditioner head with a drive element and a disk backing element. The disk backing element carries an abrasive disk and holds the lower surface of the disk in engagement with the polishing pad (abstract). An optional removable disk holder 158 may intervene between the disk 82 and the backing element 156 (col. 9, lines 48-50 and FIG. 4). Although Gurusamy et al. report that the drive element and removable disk holder may comprise synthetic plastic components, (see, e.g., column 10, lines 31-33, and column 11, lines 23-25, respectively), Gurusamy et al. do not teach or suggest a conditioning disk comprising a synthetic plastic carrier. Rather, the conditioning disk 82 reported by Gurusamy et al. is reported to be formed of nickel-coated carbon steel embedded with diamonds (column 11, lines 40-42, FIG. 9). Further, Gurusamy et al. teach away from using a conditioner with a synthetic plastic carrier by reporting that magnets may be used to retain the conditioning disk (column 11, lines 35-45). It is unclear how magnets could be used to retain a conditioning disk with a synthetic plastic carrier affixed to the bottom substrate surface.

Accordingly, Gurusamy et al. fail to disclose a conditioning disk comprising a synthetic plastic or ceramic carrier as recited in Applicant's claims. For at least this reason, the present claims are novel in view of Gurusamy et al. and the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn.

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II. Claims 1-12, 23, and 25-30 are Not Obvious in view of Sung (U.S. Pat. No. 6,679,243) in view of Gurusamy et al.

Claims 1-12, 23, and 25-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Sung in view of Gurusamy et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the references do not teach all of the elements of Applicant's pending claims. As discussed above, Gurusamy et al. do not teach or suggest a conditioning disk comprising a synthetic plastic or ceramic carrier as recited in Applicant's claims. Further, as acknowledged in the Office Action, Sung fails to teach or suggest a conditioning disk comprising a synthetic plastic carrier. Accordingly, claims 1-12, 23, and 25-30 are nonobvious in view of Sung and Gurusamy et al. and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

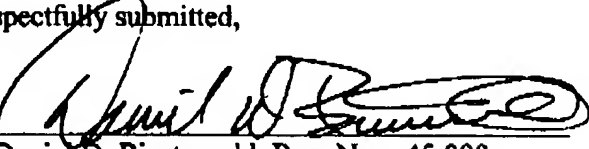
III. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative with any questions concerning Applicant's application.

Respectfully submitted,

July 15, 2005
Date

By


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